

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- Sub A1
1. A system comprising:
 - retrieving means for retrieving an e-mail from a first mail store;
 - determining means, coupled to the retrieving means, for using a predetermined criterion to determine whether to send the e-mail to a second mail store;
 - establishing means, coupled to the determining means, for establishing a communications channel with the second mail store; and
 - sending means, coupled to the establishing means, for sending the e-mail to the second mail store.
 2. The system of claim 1 wherein the first mail store implements a first protocol.
 3. The system of claim 2 wherein the first mail store is located on a mail server.
 4. The system of claim 1 wherein the first mail store stores the e-mails in a folder structure, and further comprising means for selecting the folder structure for synchronization of all e-mails therein
 5. The system of claim 3 wherein the retrieving means includes an e-mail engine for communicating with the mail server.
- Sub A2

- 1 ⁴~~6~~. The system of claim ³~~3~~ wherein the e-mail engine implements the first protocol
2 used by the mail server.

- 1 ⁵~~7~~. The system of claim ⁴~~6~~ wherein the e-mail engine identifies the first protocol used
2 by the mail server.

- Sub A2
1 8. The system of claim 1 wherein the predetermined criterion includes a
2 determination of whether the e-mail has already been sent to the second mail store.

- 1 9. The system of claim 8 wherein the determination is resolved by examining a
2 receipt date corresponding to the e-mail and a last synchronization signature indicating
3 the last date of synchronization.

- 1 ⁸~~10~~. The system of claim 1 wherein the establishing means includes a communications
2 module.

- Sub A3
1 11. The system of claim 10 wherein the second mail store is protected by a firewall
2 and the communications module includes security means for communicating through the
3 firewall.

- 1 ¹¹~~12~~. The system of claim 1 wherein the sending means includes a web engine.

Sub 1
13. The system of claim 1 further comprising a synchronization-start module for
2 using a start criterion to determine when to initiate synchronization.

1 14. A system comprising:
2 an e-mail engine for retrieving an e-mail from a first mail store;
3 an e-mail synchronization module, coupled to the e-mail engine, for using a
4 predetermined criterion to determine whether to send the e-mail to a second mail store;
5 a communications module coupled to the e-mail synchronization module for
6 establishing a communications channel with the second mail store; and
7 a web engine, coupled to the communications module, for sending the e-mail to
8 the second mail store.

1 15. The system of claim 14 wherein the first mail store implements a first protocol.

1 16. The system of claim 14 wherein the first mail store is located on a mail server.

Sub 1
17. The system of claim 16 wherein the first mail store stores the e-mails in a folder
2 structure, and further comprising means for selecting the folder structure for
3 synchronization of all e-mails therein.

1 18. The system of claim 16 wherein the e-mail engine implements the first protocol
2 used by the mail server to communicate with the mail server.

1 ²⁶
19. The system of claim ²⁵18 wherein the e-mail engine identifies the first protocol.

Sub A6
1 20. The system of claim 14 wherein the predetermined criterion includes a
2 determination of whether the e-mail has already been sent to the second mail store.

1 21. The system of claim 20 wherein the determination is resolved by examining a
2 receipt date corresponding to the e-mail and a last synchronization signature indicating
3 the last date of synchronization.

1 22. The system of claim 14 wherein the second mail store is protected by a firewall
2 and the communications module includes security means for communicating through the
3 firewall.

1 23. The system of claim 14 further comprising a synchronization-start module for
2 using a start criterion to determine when to initiate synchronization.

1 24. A computer-readable storage medium storing program code for causing a
2 computer to perform the steps of:
3 retrieving an e-mail from a first mail store;
4 using a predetermined criterion to determine whether to send the retrieved e-mail
5 to a second mail store;
6 establishing a communications channel with the second mail store; and
7 sending the retrieved e-mail to the second mail store.

- 1 25. A method comprising
 2 retrieving an e-mail from a first mail store;
 3 using a predetermined criterion to determine whether to send the retrieved e-mail
 4 to a second mail store;
 5 establishing a communications channel with the second mail store; and
 6 sending the retrieved e-mail to the second mail store.

1 ~~26. The method of claim 25 wherein the first mail store implements a first protocol;~~

1 27. The method of claim 26 wherein the first mail store is located on a mail server.

Sub 1 28. The method of claim 27 wherein the first mail store stores the e-mails in a folder
 A1 2 structure, and further comprising means for selecting the folder structure for
 3 synchronization of all e-mails therein.

1 ¹⁵~~29.~~ The method of claim ¹⁴~~28~~ wherein the step of retrieving includes using the first
 2 protocol.

1 ¹⁶~~30.~~ The method of claim ¹⁵~~29~~ wherein the step of retrieving includes the step of
 2 identifying the first protocol.

Sub A8
1 31. The method of claim 25 wherein the step of using a predetermined criterion
2 includes determining whether the e-mail has already been sent to the second mail store.

1 32. The method of claim 31 wherein the step of determining includes examining a
2 receipt date corresponding to the e-mail and a last synchronization signature which
3 indicates the last date of synchronization.

1 33. The method of claim 28,
2 wherein the second mail store is protected by a firewall; and
3 further comprising the step of communicating through the firewall.

1 34. The system of claim 25 wherein the second mail store is remotely located and the
2 step of sending includes communicating the e-mail through a computer network.

1 35. The system of claim 25 further comprising a synchronization-start module for
2 using a start criterion to determine when to initiate synchronization.

1 36. A system for automatically downloading e-mails for a particular client from a
2 mail server which implements a particular protocol, comprising:
3 means for identifying the particular protocol used by the mail server;
4 means, coupled to the means for identifying, for using the particular protocol to
5 download e-mails from the mail server;

6 means, coupled to the means for using, for downloading e-mails addressed to the
7 particular client.

1 ³³
~~31.~~ The system of claim ³²~~36~~ wherein the means for identifying includes means for
2 receiving configuration information from the mail server.

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